

Dear Jim, Rules vote on House assassinations committee 2/1/77

I was quite surprised to see that with all the stories in no way indicating this kind of situation the Rules committee limited the assassinations committee to a temporary life of two months. If I can read more than one meaning into it an obvious one is that Dave Wrene will be, modestly, sorry about betting me that Sprague would back it.

For me this is a particularly strange but now not at all difficult situation. I made my adjustments long ago.

I have no doubt that these powerful forces who can break me real exposure have exerted that influence. I think I am responsible for the stories that turned this around. But I am also satisfied that if I had not done it these forces would have found another way of doing the same thing.

There is no reporter I have spoken to, no story I have seen that indicated any problem in getting the resolution out of the Rules committee. Every is a fragility but I recall no such act. I believe it is without precedent. I will not conjecture ever whether I influenced this by such moves as my letters to Tip O'Neill. (I did arrange confirmation of JP's report that Edwards had made his peace.)

All indications were that with strictures, with a reduced appropriation the committee would be continued. This is not the meaning of the Rules vote today. Perhaps tomorrow's stories and some conversations with reporters will give me more information. However, having paid little attention to this recently I am surprised.

I do not believe that in this case the reporters lied to me or in their stories. This, I think, means that there is a deep undercurrent of two different forces, those who have the common sense to see that this cabal will do no good and want good done and those who can't afford a good job. For people like Laramer not to have picked this up is unusual. For it not to have been leaked in advance or suggested to people like him, Burnham and Ditzel also is not the norm.

(I caught part of a filmed wiring on the WTOP evening TV news. There was Fauntroy saying that now, we are to undertake it for the first time ever, there can be a look at-guess what — their budget! Reminds me of Lyman Kirkpatrick when wrote a book after his CIA career in which he explained that the whole purpose of the CIA was to exist to be reorganized and that each Director was superior in this reorganization than any before him. Like I did not know they had a budget before they had a Sprague.)

One of my sources in a distant area told me today, with Gail Beagle as the source, that this is the Gonzalez Kirkpatricking. Gonzalez has been dedicating himself to a reorganization of the last reorganization and wound up with a deal that gives him two months in which to come up with something. This does, very much, relate to the kinds of letters I have been writing. This gives me a slight opening I'll seek to work through. If the odds are against it I'll tell you about it if I can find the way of making the attempt. First I'll have to decide whether to let them pull another stupidity.

There is no chance that this gang would do other than evil. Anything that in any way deters it is in my belief a plus. I feel so strongly about this that I'd rather not have this investigation continued than have it go ahead with this staff and this membership. No chance of anything good coming of it. In this sense what happens today is fine for me. Not because it is good. Because it deters the very bad.

Now that I have copies of the reprint of PW, for which we had a small but welcome list of orders, I packaged enough to fill the mailbox before strating this. When I started I also put a tape of Fidler on the deck on. The music delights us. But there are some words that are here appropriate. There is a line from the rabbi who is asked for an appropriate blessing for the Cesar. It comes out Gog (bless him and keep him far away from us.

And the fiddler trying to scratch out a few moments of joy on the roof tries it precariously.

Precarious or not as of this moment I regard the present situation this way: it is as good as we could expect after all that has happened. Or the fiddlers have not slid from the roof and broken their necks - yet.

And still have a chance not to.

As I've told you, Lane having a contract the ~~xxxx~~ Freed end of that axis has been on its own - on books. I'm not clear on whether this is the western end of the axis of Jeff Cohen alone but the words are to me attributed to him: Jerry Ray is Raoul or the equivalent himself.

I am also expecting to get a clipping of Henry "Aile's" reaction to the insane suit filed by Jerry. It is that Jerry was a co-conspirator. If there is any way of getting better coverage on this it may in time be helpful. Henry would have been wiser and a better ~~xxxx~~ lawyer to have laughed. Dick may be able to find this in the Nashville papers.

Best,

PS- if you want to know how the fiddler does not slip off the roof it is Tradition.

Our becoming is the one with Zero Mostel. If DJ does not in the end Connect him and we they are not delivering. We were not ~~xxxx~~ friends. We met casually only when he was, believe it or not a pantomimist. He never spoke a word. But there not only have to be record, I know there are. I was once in the home of his employers when there was a Dangerous Person there. Not only was this the case but it came back to me from an Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Criminal Division not referred to in the letter #11, asked me to write E. Ross Buckley.

From this you can take it that with certainty at the time my garbage was being collected and sieved and sifted I was also picked up on a bug that to the best of my knowledge has not been admitted to this moment. We disrespect for your years before you were born.

See what I mean by Tradition?

More tradition: that same bug has to have picked up Hazel Scott before she became the wife of Arch Clayton Pewe/ll. What it then picked up was not what would ordinarily be considered a solo vocal. (She was Guilliard but has to switch to the popular to keep herself and her ~~xxxx~~ mother so she played the piano and sang - both magnificently.)

Ah, tradition!